

Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ADP-00 CG-00 H-03 L-03 CIAE-00 COME-00

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

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E.O. 11652 N/A

TAGS: EFIS, CVIS, OCLR, UR, US

SUBJECT: USSR FISHING VESSEL BELOGORSK

REF: MOSCOW 7336, DEPARTMENT 123099

1. ON JUNE 29 DEPARTMENT RECEIVED FROM SOVIET EMBASSY A SEVEN-DAY ADVANCE REQUEST FOR CALL OF VESSEL BELOGORSK AT PORT OF BOSTON JULY 5 TO 8. ENTRY CLEARANCE WAS GRANTED.

2. ON JULY 3 DEPARTMENT DECIDED THAT BELOGORSK WOULD NOT BE PERMITTED TO OFFLOAD ITS CARGO OF FISH IN BOSTON BUT THAT, IN ACCORDANCE WITH PARAGRAPH 8E OF THE US-SOVIET FISHING AGREEMENT OF JUNE 21, 1973, IT WOULD BE ALLOWED TO QUOTE REPLENISH SHIPS STORES OR FRESH WATER, OBTAIN UNCLASSIFIED

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BUNKERS, PROVIDE REST FOR OR MAKE CHANGES IN PERSONNEL OF

SUCH VESSELS, AND OBTAIN MINOR REPAIRS AND OTHER SERVICES NORMALLY PROVIDED IN SUCH PORTS, ALL IN ACCORDANCE WITH APPLICABLE RULES AND REGULATIONS UNQUOTE.

3. AGENT APPEALED DECISION ON ALLEGED BEHALF OF SOVRYBFLOT ON JULY 5, CLAIMING VESSEL QUALIFIED AS A COMMERCIAL CARGO CARRIER, WITH IMPLICATION THAT VESSEL THEREFORE FELL WITHIN TERMS OF BILATERAL MARITIME AGREEMENT OF OCTOBER 14, 1972. CONSIDERABLE NEW ENGLAND PRESS INTEREST. ONE CONGRESSMAN REPRESENTING FISH PROCESSOR, WHO IS PURCHASER OF CARGO, SOUGHT PERMISSION FOR VESSEL TO UNLOAD CARGO. UNLOADING WAS OPPOSED BY NEW ENGLAND FISHERMEN AND OTHER MEMBERS OF CONGRESS FROM AREA.

4. DEPARTMENT RE-AFFIRMED DENIAL OF UNLOADING CARGO ON JULY 6 TO CONGRESSMEN AND AGENT.

5. DEPARTMENT CONCERNED THAT IF FISHING VESSELS HAD OPTION OF DUAL REGISTRY AS COMMERCIAL CARRIER AND FISHING VESSEL, SOVIET FISHING INDUSTRY WOULD HAVE SIGNIFICANT ECONOMIC BENEFIT BY EMPLOYING ITS SEVERAL HUNDRED FISHING VESSELS ON BOTH COASTS AS COMMERCIAL CARRIERS ENROUTE TO FISHING GROUNDS OFF OUR COASTS. IN RECENTLY-CONCLUDED FISHERIES NEGOTIATIONS, BOTH POLES AND SOVIETS SOUGHT SUCH TERMS, WHICH WERE ADAMANTLY OPPOSED BY INDUSTRY AND US DELEGATION. DEPARTMENT CONSIDERS IT OF UTMOST IMPORTANCE THAT OPTION OF DUAL REGISTRY (A VESSEL ALTERNATELY TAKING ADVANTAGE OF THE MARITIME AND FISHERIES AGREEMENTS) BE FORESTALLED AND WILL DELIVER NOTE TO THIS EFFECT TO SOVIET EMBASSY. NOTE WILL ALSO EMPHASIZE THAT VESSELS OF SOVIET FISHING FLEET COME UNDER THE FISHERIES AGREEMENTS AT ALL TIMES AND THAT THESE AGREEMENTS DO NOT PERMIT THE OFFLOADING OF FISH OR OTHER CARGO IN US PORTS AT ANY TIME. RUSH

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